

Suspension/revocation of an airman certificate by the FAA has been used in enforcement action since the beginning of air regulation. After a crime or other serious action contrary to the Federal Aviation Regulations has been committed it is logical and fair to suspend the privileges of the certificate holder. While I agree that security must be improved on some areas, it is not logical or fair to suspend an airman certificate for security purposes. The reasons are apparent:

1) Suspending an airman certificate for security reasons is a waste of time, and damaging to the public. If a person poses a "security risk" i.e. potential hijacker, terrorist, etc. suspending his airman certificate, if he possesses one, will do no good. If he plans on carrying out an act of terrorism the fact that his airman certificate is revoked will be the least of his worries. There is no security there because the person will commit the act of terrorism anyway.

2) The use of this regulation can result in airman certificates being revoked in cases where the person attached to that certificate has done nothing wrong. Loss of certificate privileges will result in loss of wages, personal transportation, and possible loss of employment for the holder. This is a high price to pay considering the lack of additional security the regulation provides.

3) The lack of all available information to the defense attorney due to "classified" material does not allow for a fair trial. This is contrary to the American way and, depending on the situation, in violation of the 6th amendment to the Consitution.

To conclude, suspending airman certificates for the purpose of national security will perform no useful security task and only stands to hurt the public.

Sincerely,
John Paulding
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